

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 18 August 1948

SUBJECT Political, Economic and Military Conditions
in Villages between Tsingtao and Poshan in
Shantung Province

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. [REDACTED] farmers living between Tsingtao and Poshan in Shantung Province [REDACTED] feel they have a voice in their government, in self-defense, and in crop planning, and [REDACTED] are satisfied with their lot.
2. Villagers everywhere are gravely concerned over poor crop yields, and fear a possible famine during the winter. They hope to procure food from other areas.
3. Each village has a home guard under the command of a local veteran of the Communist army, who organizes and drills the local defense force for protection against bandits and Nationalist remnants. This corps consists of farmers, and after basic military training these spare-time soldiers are given an opportunity to volunteer for the hsien defense force. This consists of full-time soldiers who work on farms, repair roads, and are available for defense purposes within the hsien. They can get leave to return home to help with the crops when needed.
4. From this hsien defense force a larger group is obtained by men volunteering to serve over a larger part of the province. These are the type of troops which were used to take Tsingtao, and they were found to have a strong sense of discipline and duty and some sense of national pride and unity.
5. From this group men volunteer for the field army to fight in South China.

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[REDACTED] Comment. Paragraphs 3-5. By this progression soldiers of the Chinese Communist army develop a national interest and pride to a greater extent than any other army unit in China past or present. Paragraph 1. It was felt that villagers are definitely getting some semblance of national spirit and unity.

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